

## **Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission Meeting**

August 14, 2014

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

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**Member attendees:** Chair Pattiy Torno; Vice Chair Stephanie Brown; Woodfin Mayor Jerry Vehaun; Buncombe County Commissioner David King; Asheville City Councilman Jan Davis; Pam Turner; Peter Sprague; Karl Koon; George Morosani Ricky Silver; Joe Ferikes; Joe Sasfy; Cindy Weeks

**Absent from meeting:** Carleton Collins

**Staff:** Stephanie Monson; Sam Powers; Gary Jackson; Jeff Staudinger

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**Chair Pattiy Torno opened the meeting at 4:03 pm.**

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

- The meeting has a quorum.
- Welcome to new member Joe Sasfy, a RiverLink appointee.
- The June and July meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **UPDATES:**

- Planning and Design Review Committee: update by committee member Cindy Weeks. Last meeting occurred August 6.
  - Reviewed and edited the Riverside Drive Development plan.  
\*Action: adopted a recommendation on the Riverside Drive Development Plan for AARRC consideration(see item under new business, below)
- Networking Subcommittee – update by Peter Sprague, Chair. Last met on August 4.
  - Created a July meeting (Van Tour of Swannanoa) highlights list.  
\*Action: developed recommendation for AARRC to consider incorporating highlights list into the July meeting minutes.
  - Group reviewed policy for naming of creeks and streams  
\*Action: developed recommendation for Commission to advise Council on the adoption of a creek naming policy (see item under new business, below)  
\*Action: developed a recommendation for Commission to advise Council on the specific naming of proposed “Penland Creek” (see item under new business, below).
- Staff Updates-
  - Steph Monson Dahl delivered a memo from City staff to Council’s Planning and Economic Development (PED committee regarding the release of the Alternatives to Gentrification Report. No action requested.
  - Steph Monson Dahl delivered a memo from the City’s Development Services Director, Shannon Tuch to other City staff, which described the issues associated with the unsafe buildings at 339 Lyman Street. City Manager Gary Jackson delineated the City’s current/anticipated process to vet policies for addressing residential and or commercial structures that are deemed unsafe

or dilapidated. Jackson committed to having staff return to the AARRC in the coming months with an update focusing on next steps in the policy development or enforcement process.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Riverside Drive Development Plan:** Steph Monson Dahl provided a written report that included a staff recommendation for the AARRC to advise Council to adopt the plan. Lead consultant Tom Gallaher delivered a presentation that summarized the plan. The Commission discussed the plan content, the review process, and potential advisory positions to Council; they asked questions of staff and the consultant. The Planning and Design Review Committee recommended that the Commission advise Council to adopt the plan.

\* Action: The following motions were adopted unanimously

- 1) *"We advise City Council to adopt the Riverside Drive Development Plan as presented."*
- 2) *"We advise City Council to adopt the Riverside Drive Development Plan as an update to the City's adopted Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan, and adopt it as a plan that shall stand on its own, a plan not to be excluded from use if the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan becomes outdated."*

- **Naming of Creeks and Streams:** Steph Monson Dahl provided a written report on the subject of a policy for naming creeks and streams, and the subject of RiverLink's specific proposal to name a creek in West Asheville that flow through the New Belgium site into the French Broad River. RiverLink staff member Dave Russell provided background on their "Name That Creek" initiative. Commission members discussed the issues associated with the consideration. The Networking Committee recommended that the AARRC advise Council to adopt a clear and concise policy, and provided a suggested policy; and also recommended that the AARRC advise Council to approve the Penland Creek name.

Commission asked to add to the suggested policy that any proposed name be researched in a thorough manner before Council consideration.

\*Action The Commission unanimously passed the following motions

- 1) We advise Council to adopt a policy that outlines the process for naming of creeks and streams in Asheville. A suggested process that can be used as policy is attached (on file with Steph Monson Dahl) motion made by Joe Ferikes and seconded by George Morosani
- 2) We advise Council to support the proposed name of "Penland Creek" for the stream in West Asheville flowing through the New Belgium site into the French Broad River. Motion made by Joe Ferikes and seconded by Jerry Vehaun.

- **Riverfront Destination Development: Tourism Product Development Fund Grant Application:** Steph Monson Dahl provided a written report that outlined the background of the TPDF program, summarized the City's proposal, and asked commission members to consider authorizing the Chairperson to sign a letter of support (provided in packet) for the grant application; and to consider advising Council on their level of support for the Riverfront Destination Development initiative and the acceptance of grant funds.

\*Action: Morosani made a motion for the Commission to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support, Weeks seconded. Passed unanimously with two abstentions; Stephanie Brown, who is staff to the TDA, and Councilman Jan Davis, who sits ex officio on the TDA board.

\*Action: County Commission David King made a motion to" advise City Council that the AARRC strongly supports the City's proposed application, and that if a grant is awarded, that the AARRC strongly recommend City Council accept the funds as part of a fiscally sustainable strategy for the implementation of the riverfront portions of the City's 5 year CIP". The motion was seconded by Ricky Silver, and passed unanimously with two abstentions (same as above action item).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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